

## Items of Interest.



Twelve thousand blue-blooded law-breakers are confined in Russian prisons.

Prof. Henry A. Rowland of Johns Hopkins university died on April 16 at Baltimore.

Statisticians assert that \$2,000,000,000 in gold has been taken from the ground in Australia.

England holds first place among the nations of the world in the building of commercial ships.

Botanists are convinced that Indian corn is a native of Peru. It has been found growing there in a wild state.

Five hundred thousand women over 18 years of age are employed in the factories and workshops of Great Britain.

Shoes were worn in Egypt 2,200 years before Christ. Mention of them has been found in an Egyptian papyrus that old.

The opal is the lightest of the precious stones. It is only twice as heavy as water. The zircon is the heaviest, weighing four times as much as water.

During the week ending April 6 building permits to the amount of \$15,820,000 were taken out in New York City. This is the largest list on record.

The orange is a native of Africa. It was introduced into Europe in the Sixteenth century. It was vastly inferior to the cultivated orange of today.

A new system of sewers is being constructed in the City of Mexico. When the sewers are completed the principal streets will be paved with asphalt.

A congressman once franked to his home a fire-proof safe weighing 6,000 pounds. He bought it at a public sale after it had been condemned by the government.

An Illinois court has decided that motormen must use their utmost endeavor to avoid running over dogs. The motorman must not depend upon the dog's agility.

It is estimated that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" has been presented on the stage oftener than any other dozen plays ever constructed, not excepting the Shakespeare dramas.

Night schools are being opened throughout Maryland for the purpose of instructing illiterate colored voters. The Maryland ballot law disfranchises illiterates.

The brick-making machine has superseded the old hand method. An expert brick-maker could make about 6,000 brick per day by hand. The machine makes 30,000.

A New York law is to the effect that funeral expenses must be paid from an estate before any other bills are paid. It was secured by the undertakers after a hard fight.

Connecticut has always held first place in the manufacture of clocks. The first clocks manufactured in this country were made in Connecticut by Eli Terry of Plymouth.

During the first three months of 1901 the total loss by fire in the United States reached the appalling sum of \$49,969,200. This is at the rate of nearly \$200,000,000 a year.

Englishmen are the greatest consumers of jam in the world. Twenty-seven tons of apricot pulp were shipped recently from California to London to be manufactured into jam.

Milo Hughes, aged eight years, saved a Monon freight train from a wreck at Frankfort, Ky. The boy lives near the railroad four miles from that place and while trudging along the creek bank discovered the bridge in flames. He knew the south-

bound local freight was about due, and running up the track he met it and by waving his hat he succeeded in flagging the train. The freight was running at a high rate of speed to keep ahead of the passenger train, and had the boy not acted as promptly as he did there would undoubtedly have been several lives lost.

Bengal, India, with a territory of 203,473 square miles, has a population equal to the total population of the United States. It is one-quarter less in size than the state of Texas.

The members of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of the state of West Virginia are considering the proposition of erecting a home for old, infirm and disabled members of the order.

Mr. Justice Taylor of Wilmington, O., was ninety-two years old last month. He is probably the oldest man in active business. He has voted the democratic ticket for seventy-one years.

The government finds it difficult to enlist good carpenters in the navy. The pay ranges from \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year. There are plenty of applicants, but only a few can pass the examination.

Georgia contains several colleges maintained by subscriptions from the north. They are for the education of the negro, and during the last quarter of a century a great many have been graduated from them.

Mohammedans have grown tired of the primitive method of travelling to Mecca. They are now constructing a railroad, having subscribed \$108,000 for the purpose. The work is being done under the direction of the sultan.

For centuries botanists have endeavored to grow black roses, but no one has ever yet accomplished the feat. The nearest approach to a black rose was grown by a Frenchman, who grafted a dark red rose upon an oak sapling.

A quarter of a century ago Russia was dependent upon other countries for her warships. Now Russia has ten ship-yards on the Baltic and Black seas and in them ten warships ranging from 6,000 to 13,500 tons each are being constructed.

You cannot keep a Kansas man down. A Kansas man out of a job and without a penny dropped into Olathe one day a few weeks ago and sold a lot of bits of broken glass at 10 cents each, saying they were souvenirs of one of Mrs. Nation's raids.

The Chicago orchestra is maintained by private subscriptions. Five years ago the annual deficit was \$50,000. This year it is less than \$20,000, although the expense has been vastly increased. This is taken as an indication that Chicago is growing as a musical center.

The Tuskegee, Ala., Normal and Industrial institute was founded in 1881. It started in a rented building with one instructor and thirty students. The average attendance is now 1,050 students and the instructors number eighty-six. The institute has graduated 3,000 students.

Wm. T. Totten, secretary of the Yankee Christmas club, 1100 Green street, Philadelphia, is interesting himself in what are known as the "Shut-Ins"—persons who, because of sickness, are kept in the house. He asks for contributions in the way of magazines and other literature. The most helpless of the Shut-Ins is Mr. Chas. H. Conrad, No. 1218 Cabot street. For more than ten years he has been unable to move a muscle and yet he does not murmur.

Dr. Girdner, the author of an extraordinary book, with the extraordinary name "Newyorkitis," has had a remarkable career. Before his graduation as a surgeon from the university of the city of New York his list of honors and prizes constituted an unusual record and the record star is today. To perfect himself for his professional career he spent several years in the principal medical institutions of Europe. Upon his return to New York he was offered a partnership by Dr. Frank Hamil-

ton, the first surgeon of his day in this country and, with him, participated in the consultations held at the bedside of President Garfield. It was his knowledge of this case which prompted the invention of the Girdner Telephone Bullet Finder, which was given to the world by him. If it had been in existence when Mr. Garfield was shot, his life could have been saved.

An ordinance has been introduced in the city council of Chicago which is intended for the protection of pedestrians from the results of careless drivers. The important section in this ordinance is as follows: "The drivers of delivery and express wagons and of all other kinds of vehicles shall not be less than 15 years of age. All proprietors of wagons shall make it their duty to place their vehicles in charge of drivers above the age of 15 years and will be held responsible for the enforcement of the ordinance. Any person or persons violating this ordinance shall be fined not less than \$1 nor more than \$10 or committed to prison for not more than ten days."

Paul Revere's First Church bell, whose peals of praise were heard in Boston more than a century ago, will be heard again, it having been purchased by St. James' Episcopal church of North Cambridge. The bell now occupies a place in the vestry of the church, but it is hoped to have it mounted in the belfry by April 19, Patriots' day. The bell was first used in the First Church of the Old North End and held its place in the respective towers of the three different edifices afterwards used by the First Church. When the society moved into a building on Temple street there was no room for the bell, and it lay idle for some time. No provision was made for the relic and recently it was voted to sell it for \$500.

A remarkable religious revival record is cited by Presiding Elder Crow of the Methodist Church in the Carbondale, Ill., district. This shows that during the past five months there have been within this district 882 conversions. This relates only to the Methodist church. During this same period six other denominations were conducting revivals, and it is estimated that in this neighborhood in the aggregate 3,500 conversions were effected. This does not include the colored population, which received a large increase owing to the presence of Bishop Grant—an increase estimated at 1,500. Thus in this limited district it is estimated that there were 5,000 conversions during the past five months.

Reverend W. S. Ament, who was charged by Mark Twain with questionable methods in the collection of indemnities at Pekin, has written to the American board of missionaries a defense in which he says: "Nothing has been done except after consultation with colleagues and the full approval of the United States minister. I will secure a certificate from Mr. Conger to that effect. As to leaving 'an unpleasant memory,' if collected by missionaries in person, I am more than convinced that this was the best way for all concerned. Always we had the full support and approval of the local officials, who acted with the knowledge of Li Hung Chang and Chang Yen Lao, Li's right hand man, who settled as to amounts and methods of collecting. In fact by doing it in person the missionary saved the guilty villages from any amount of squeezing from underlings and unauthorized bullies who have been doing a vast amount of injury. I have been first in the field, had the largest field of any one man, have unfortunately had more contact (being between Pekin and Paoing-Fu) with the military, and hence have been made the scapegoat for all the mistakes and rascalities that have happened in regions that I have never entered. I welcome the closest investigation. No correspondent who has called upon us has taken views adverse to our methods. We have left no disgruntled people behind us and there is no Christian even dissatisfied with the arrangements. I found myself most happy in the conclusion of matters in this way."